

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05122 101521Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /101 W

-----072056 110151Z /61

R 101353Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4349

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

ASINT BAGHDAD 540

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5122

E.O. 11652: GDS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 05122 101521Z

TAGS: ETRD XF SY

SUBJ: FIRST APPROACH TO CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE

REF: (A) STATE 179452, (B) DAMASCUS 4022, (C) DAMASCUS 4935

1. ECONOFF MADE FIRST CALL ON ARAB LEAGUE CENTRAL
BOYCOTT OFFICE (CBO), 1030 AM AUGUST 9, 1977. HE WAS

RECEIVED BY EL SAYYED BAYOUMI EL BARKI, FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER. BARKI WAS CORDIAL, OFFERED REFRESHMENTS, AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR U.S. INITIATIVE IN MAKING THIS FIRST CONTACT WITH THE CBO.

2. AS OUTLINED REFTTEL (C) ECONOFF LEFT WITH BARKI THE TEXT OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT, THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT OF STATE 142390 AND A LETTER SIGNED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE STANLEY J. MARCUSS. HE EXPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES AND THE BOYCOTT OFFICE FIND THEMSELVES IN ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP, IT IS BEST TO KEEP ONE ANOTHER FULLY INFORMED OF OUR LAWS, REGULATIONS, PRACTICES AND POSITIONS, SO AS TO AVOID GIVING THIRD PARTIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT FOR THEIR PERSONAL BENEFIT UNCLEAR AND UNCERTAIN INFORMATION. ECONOFF DESCRIBED US LAW AS RESPECTING SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF ARAB STATES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PRESERVING INTEGRITY US COMMERCIAL PRACTICES BY NOT PERMITTING DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES SUCH AS ONE US FIRM BEING FORCED TO BOYCOTT ANOTHER US FIRM. BARKI RESPONDED THAT BOYCOTT OFFICE HAS NO ENEMIES, SAVE ISRAEL, AND IS MERELY AN ARM OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES, TO EXECUTE ECONOMIC POLICY WITHIN THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ON BEHALF OF THE ARAB CAUSE. BARKI ASKED WHEN AN ARABIC LANGUAGE OFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF THE NEW US LAW WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 05122 101521Z

AVAILABLE. HE ALSO EXPRESSED DESIRE OF THE BOYCOTT OFFICE TO CONTINUE CONTACTS WITH THE EMBASSY IN HOPES OF PREVENTING ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS CAUSED BY LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF EACH OTHERS POSITION. BARKI STATED IT WAS HIS FOND HOPE THAT CONDITIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD SO CHANGE THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE IN THE FUTURE ANY NEED FOR A BOYCOTT OFFICE.

3. MIXED IN WITH THIS EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED:

(A) MASONS - YES, THE MASONS ARE ON THE BOYCOTT. THE BOYCOTT OFFICE WILL PROVIDE A COMPLETE EXPLANATION OF HOW THEY GOT THERE UPON RECEIPT OF A WRITTEN REQUEST FROM EMBASSY.

(B) OBTAINING A COMPLETE BOYCOTT LIST - THERE IS NO BOYCOTT LIST AS SUCH. THERE ARE FILES ON THOUSANDS OF COMPANIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WORLDWIDE WITH VARYING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE BOYCOTT. THE BOYCOTT OFFICE WILL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON ANY AMERICAN COMPANY THE EMBASSY INQUIRES ABOUT. PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS IN

EUROPE AND AMERICA WHO ARE SELLING WHAT THEY PURPORT TO BE BOYCOTT LISTS ARE FRAUDS AND SWINDLERS. THE CBO ITSELF CANNOT ON ANY GIVEN DAY COMPOSE A DEFINITIVE LIST.

(C) SAFEGUARDS AGAINST UNJUST PERSECUTION - THE BOYCOTT OFFICE DOES NOT REACT TO ANONYMOUS LETTERS AND OTHER ACCUSATIONS IT CONSIDERS SUSPECT AGAINST COMPANIES. WHEN CONCRETE INFORMATION IS PRESENTED REGARDING A COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL, THE BOYCOTT OFFICE IMMEDIATELY CONTACTS THE COMPANY IN QUESTION AND SEEKS CLARIFICATION. SHOULD THE COMPANY FAIL TO RESPOND WITHIN A YEAR IT WILL BE PUT ON THE BOYCOTT. HOWEVER, IN ALL OTHER CASES A COMPANY'S GUILT MUST BE PROVEN BEYOND DOUBT BEFORE IT IS BOYCOTTED.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DAMASC 05122 101521Z

(D) COMPANIES DESIRING TO GET OFF THE BOYCOTT - COMPANIES DESIRING TO GET OFF THE BOYCOTT (OR OBTAIN ANY OTHER INFORMATION ON THEIR STATUS) SHOULD CONTACT ONE OF THE REGIONAL (NATIONAL) BOYCOTT OFFICES, NOT THE CENTRAL OFFICE. THE CENTRAL OFFICE IS ONLY A POLICY MAKING AND COORDINATING BODY AND PREFERS NOT TO DEAL WITH INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES. FOREIGN FIRMS SHOULD DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE REGIONAL BOYCOTT OFFICES AND NOT EMPLOY ANY MEDIATORS, GO-BETWEENS, OR ATTORNEYS.

(E) RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION - THE BOYCOTT OFFICE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY CALLING TO ITS ATTENTION ANY EXAMPLE OF AN INQUIRY BY ANY BOYCOTT OFFICE REGARDING RACE, RELIGION OR ETHNIC ORIGIN. IT WILL IMMEDIATELY REVERSE OR CANCEL SUCH ACTION.

(F) PROCEDURAL MATTERS - THE BOYCOTT OFFICE WILL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE ORALLY INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF PARTICULAR COMPANIES. REQUESTS FOR FORMAL JUSTIFICATION OF THEIR BOYCOTT STATUS MUST BE REQUESTED IN WRITING.

4. COMMENT: ECONOFF'S RECEPTION WAS VERY FRIENDLY. BARKI, AN EGYPTIAN, CONSTANTLY REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO COOPERATE TO AVOID UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATIONS CAUSED BY FALSE INFORMATION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: ADVISE WHETHER WE SHOULD REQUEST IN WRITING INFORMATION ON MASONS FROM BOYCOTT OFFICE. IF SO, I WOULD SEND IT IN LETTER SIGNED BY ECONOFF THEROS TO BARKI AND AVOID MORE FORMAL COMMUNICATION.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGULATIONS, MEETINGS, BOYCOTTS, BUSINESS FIRMS, TRADE CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC05122
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770288-0885
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770878/aaaacnyr.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b6d1305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 179452, 77 DAMASCUS 4022, 77 DAMASCUS 4935
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1650983
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRST APPROACH TO CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE
TAGS: ETRD, XF, SY, ARAB LEAGUE CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b6d1305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009